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(21) International Application Number: PCT/GB00/00210 (22) International Filing Date: 25 January 2000 (25.01.00) (30) Priority Data: 9901764.2 28 January 1999 (28.01.99) GB (71) Applicant (for all designated States except US): THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR DEFENCE [GB/GB]; Defence Evaluation and Research Agency, Ively Road, Farnborough, Hampshire GU14 0LX (GB). (72) Inventors; and (75) Inventors/Applicants (for US only): FOULGER, Brian [GB/GB]; DERA Haslar, Gosport, Hants PO12 2AG (GB). RICHES, James [GB/GB]; DERA Haslar, Gosport, Hants PO12 2AG (GB). BOLLAN, Hilary, Roberta [GB/GB]; DERA Haslar, Gosport, Hants PO12 2AG (GB). (74) Agent: BOWDERY, A., O.; D/IPR, Formalities Section, Poplar 2, MOD Abbey Wood #19, Bristol BS34 8JH (GB).		(81) Designated States: AE, AL, AM, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BY, CA, CH, CN, CR, CU, CZ, DE, DK, DM, EE, ES, FI, GB, GD, GE, GH, GM, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IS, JP, KE, KG, KR, KZ, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, MA, MD, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, NO, NZ, PL, PT, RO, RU, SD, SE, SG, SI, SK, SL, TJ, TM, TR, TT, TZ, UA, UG, US, UZ, VN, YU, ZA, ZW, ARIPO patent (GH, GM, KE, LS, MW, SD, SL, SZ, TZ, UG, ZW), Eurasian patent (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM), European patent (AT, BE, CH, CY, DE, DK, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PT, SE), OAPI patent (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG). Published With international search report.	
(54) Title: FIRE DETECTION METHOD (57) Abstract <p>A method for detecting gases or vapours emitted from materials, such as electrical components, under conditions at which there is a risk of the onset of fire, said method comprising sampling gas from the region of the material using an ion mobility spectrometer tuned to detect specific volatilised materials. The signal can be used to determine a fire risk and to trigger alarms as necessary. The method provides rapid detection with high sensitivity and high selectivity so as to minimise false alarms. Apparatus for use in the method is also described and claimed.</p>			

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